

Special Health Care Needs

Medical Home

Definition

A *medical home* is not a building, house, or hospital, but rather an approach to providing health care services in a high-quality and cost-effective manner.¹ Individuals who have a *medical home* receive the care they need from a health care provider whom they know and trust. Individuals and their health care providers act as partners in a *medical home* to identify and access all the medical and non-medical services needed to achieve maximum potential. A medical home should be accessible, family-centered, continuous, coordinated, comprehensive, compassionate, and culturally competent.

Medical Home Components

- *Accessible*—care is personally, geographically, and financially accessible for families.
- *Family-Centered*—families and providers share responsibility and information; they know and trust one another; families are involved in care coordination; and family expertise is acknowledged.
- *Continuous*—providers are consistent; care is provided during wellness and illness; and providers assist with transitions.
- *Coordinated*—coordination is established between families, providers, and agencies.
- *Comprehensive*—all aspects of well-being are considered and addressed (medical, dental, developmental, educational, psychosocial, financial, and family support services).
- *Compassionate*—providers respect families, are supportive, recognize and assess the need for supportive services, and provide resource information.
- *Culturally Competent*—family values and customs are considered and incorporated into care plans; translation or interpreter services are provided when needed; and written materials are provided in the family's primary language.

Potential Benefits of a Medical Home

- Increased individual and provider satisfaction
- Increased wellness
- Improved coordination of care
- System easier to navigate
- Efficient use of limited resources

Helpful Websites

<http://www.medicalhomeinfo.org/resources/state/missouri.html>

For tools you and your family can use regarding medical home, please visit:

<http://www.medicalhomeinfo.org/tools/familyindex.html>

Special Health Care Needs
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¹ Medical Home definition adapted from American Academy of Pediatrics.

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